

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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S/S-O:SGOLDSMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

S E C R E T STATE 047901

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UG, US

SUBJECT: UGANDA SITUATION REPORT NO. 11 AS OF 1800 (EST)
MARCH 3, 1977 (2300 GMT)

THE FOLLOWING IS THE ELEVENTH SITUATION REPORT ON UGANDA
PREPARED BY THE UGANDA WORKING GROUP IN THE DEPARTMENT.
IT IS PREPARED FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY. DO NOT RPT NOT
DRAW UPON IT WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

1. IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST FROM PRESIDENT AMIN THROUGH
THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN IN THE MORNING
OF MARCH 3 (KAMPALA TIME) DELIVERED PRESIDENT CARTER'S
ORAL MESSAGE TO AMIN OF FEBRUARY 28. AT THE SUGGESTION OF
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THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, THE LAST SENTENCE OF THE
ORIGINAL TEXT CONCERNING THE POSSIBLE DISPATCH OF A COM-
MERCIAL AIRCRAFT WAS DELETED FROM THE MESSAGE AS READ OVER
THE PHONE TO AMIN. UNFORTUNATELY, ELLERKMANN FELT CALLED
UPON TO ADD THE COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING "ACCEPT, EXCELLENCY,
THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION" ON THE GROUNDS
THAT THIS WAS THE FORMAT USED BY AMIN IN HIS MESSAGE TO

PRESIDENT CARTER. ON AMIN'S ORDERS, RADIO KAMPALA AT 1000 GMT BROADCAST THE TEXT OF THE MESSAGE AS REVISED BY ELLERKMANN, OMITTING FORTUNATELY THE COMPLIMENTARY CLOSING. IT THEREFORE APPEARS THAT THEY INTERPRETED IT AS NOTHING MORE THAN FORM, NOT SUBSTANCE.

A DRAFT WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT TO AMIN EXPRESSING SATISFACTION ON THE RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM IS UNDER CONSIDERATION AT THE WHITE HOUSE. MESSAGES OF APPRECIATION FOR GOOD OFFICES AND OTHER ASSISTANCE HAVE BEEN SENT FROM THE PRESIDENT TO THE CHIEFS OF STATE OF SOMALIA, ZAIRE, SUDAN, RWANDA AND THE CENTRAL AFRICAN EMPIRE, AND THE CROWN PRINCE OF SAUDI ARABIA. MESSAGES FROM THE SECRETARY HAVE BEEN SENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF EGYPT, THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE OAU AND AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN IN KAMPALA.

2. AT 0030 GMT THE JCS ORDERED THE ENTERPRISE TASK GROUP TO RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE TASK GROUP IS PROCEEDING EASTWARD AND WILL EXIT THE INDIAN OCEAN INTO THE PACIFIC IN APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK'S TIME.

3. AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN HAS COMMENTED FROM KAMPALA THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE UNDULY ALARMED BY AMIN'S STATEMENT REJECTING OUR FIGURE OF 240 AMERICANS IN UGANDA AND CLAIMING THE ACTUAL TOTAL TO BE ONLY 84 OF WHICH "HALF" WERE ILLEGALLY IN THE COUNTRY. ELLERKMANN ASSERTS THAT THE OFFICIAL UGANDA LIST GIVES AT LEAST 178 WITHOUT FAMILY MEMBERS, AND THAT THEREFORE THE OFFICIAL UGANDAN FIGURE IS NOT FAR FROM OURS. ELLERKMANN QUOTES ACTING SECRET

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FOREIGN MINISTER LUBEGA AS SUGGESTING THAT AMIN WAS PLAYING WITH THESE FIGURES ON PURPOSE BECAUSE HE WAS ANNOYED AT WESTERN PRESS NEWS (APPARENTLY INACCURATE) THAT A UGANDAN OLYMPIC MEDALIST AND THE UGANDAN NATIONAL SOCCER COACH HAD DISAPPEARED. LUBEGA ASSERTED THAT THE AMERICAN INCIDENT WAS NEVERTHELESS CLOSED.

4. THE WIRE SERVICES ON MARCH 3 PICKED UP A REPORT IN A NAIROBI NEWSPAPER THAT AMIN HAD PLANNED TO EXPEL THE AMERICANS LIVING IN UGANDA, AND THAT THE POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE PLANNED TO HIJACK THE AIRCRAFT ON WHICH THE AMERICANS DEPARTED KAMPALA. THE NEWSPAPER STORY WAS SOURCED TO WEST GERMAN INTELLIGENCE REPORTS. WE ARE REFUSING TO MAKE ANY PUBLIC COMMENT AS TO AMIN'S POSSIBLE INTENTION IN THIS EPISODE.

5. THE DEPARTMENT HAS INSTRUCTED THE U.S. DELEGATION TO THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN GENEVA TO SUPPORT THE BRITISH DELEGATION STATEMENT ON THE UGANDAN SITUATION IN

THE UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETING AND TO VOTE FOR A BRITISH RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A STUDY OF THIS SITUATION IF THE RESOLUTION SHOULD COME TO A VOTE.

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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